SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION AT THE DASARA SESSION OF THE MYSORE REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY, OCTOBER 1918.

The deliberations of the Assembly were confined, in view of the Session being limited to one day, mainly to a discussion of the measures necessary to combat the epidemic of Influenza and to meet the Food situation.

Influenza.—Referring to the prevalence of Influenza throughout the State, Mr. Venkatakrishniah observed that as difficulties were experienced in obtaining medicines for Influenza, the co-operation of the people with Government was very necessary. Mr. Hutchuveeregowda requested that Medical relief might be given to poor patients in their houses.

MR. CHIK SUBBA RAO observed that in many villages, people were leaving their residences on account of Influenza and were going to live in other villages. In one village of the Hunsur Taluk there were 300 patients and 62 houses were affected by the disease. He requested that a dispensary might be opened there at least, immediately. Villages were being evacuated in Bettadapura Range. People were helpless and medicines were not available. He prayed that Government should help the people. Mr. Chik Subba Rao also complained about the distance of dispensaries from the village.

MR. GURUVA REDDY stated that 75 per cent of the people were down with fever. Mr. M. Ramaswami Sastry observed that there was increasing mortality of men in many villages and the supply of medicines was insufficient. There was no quinine in many villages. He prayed that Government might supply the same through motor service.

DEWAN.—Motor service to carry medicines in all affected villages was impossible. Government were prepared to give whatever other help was necessary.

MR. AMBLE ANNAIYA PANDIT.—The number of Doctors whether of the indigenous or allopathic systems available was inadequate as also the supply of medicines to combat the disease. The provision made in Bangalore and Mysore to meet the present situation was not adequate to meet the situation in the whole State. People must be left as far as possible to choose their own medicines. Evacuation of houses would be of no use.

MR. H. KRISHNA SASTRI suggested that retired Medical Officers might be placed on special duty to combat Influenza and the suggestion was noted for action being taken.

Food Situation.—Referring to the food situation, Mr. M. Venkatakrishnaiya observed that people were reported to be suffering considerably from want of proper food.

MR. G. NARASIMHA CHAR, stated that the price of Jolum had risen by leaps and bounds. In T.-Narsipur Taluk there was no stock of Ragi or Jolum. Steps should be taken to regulate the price of food stuffs in all places.

The Dewan enquired about the quantity of stock available in all taluks.

Opinion was varied as to the quantity in stock. One or two members said that there was sufficient grain to last only for two months while some others said that the stock on hand would last for a year. All members however were of opinion that there would be a good harvest of *Ragi* crop if only there should be some immediate rain. In the meantime Government might afford some facilities for importing *Ragi* and selling it at cheap rates; sufficient quantity of water was not available in the Cauvery for irrigation purposes; and the raiyats had already given notice about the reduction of *varam* rates.

MR. LINGE GOWDA suggested that money might be advanced by Government to raiyats at 4 per cent repayable in instalments in order to enable villagers to distribute money among themselves for the purchase of stocks.

The Dewan enquired if representations had been made to the Deputy Commissioner.

MR. LINGE GOWDA.—It was done more than a month ago. The Amildars might be asked to interest themselves in the matter and induce raiyats to take money.

DEWAN.—The matter would be considered in consultation with the Deputy Commissioners.

MR. SYED ABDUL RASHEED said that grains were not readily available in villages. A return of stocks might be called for and action taken to regulate the distribution of grains. Big merchants held back large stock of grains. Representations in the matter had been made to the Deputy Commissioner who referred them to the Amildar for enquiry. The member said that he was ready to give a list of persons that held back stocks.

MR. E. KRISHNAPPA.—As the Comptroller of Food Supplies had taken steps to regulate the prices of Food stuffs, merchants are withholding stocks from the public. Before fixing the prices of food stuffs it was necessary to take stock and for that purpose a return might be called for by Government as was done in Bombay and Madras.

MR. S. RAMANNA.—The prices of all food stuffs might be fixed by Government.

MR. E. KRISHNAPPA.—If Government would make good the losses incurred by *bona fide* merchants, merchants would be induced to launch into large dealings in grains.

MR. SURYANARANAPPA said that while twenty-five per cent of the people had stock on hand, seventy-five per cent felt it difficult to obtain grains. Grains and Kerosene Oil were scarcely available in villages. The price of food stuffs might be fixed for each village and Government guarantee any loss incurred by merchants on this account.

MR. E. KRISHNAPPA suggested that the Mysore Bank might be instructed not to give credits to merchants who speculate in grains and withhold stock from the public.

MR. ABBAS KHAN.—No such pressure ought to be put on the Bank.

MR. H. KRISHNA SASTRY.—People were suffering from want of food in many villages and facilities might be provided by Government for distribution of food.

Miscellaneous.—In the course of the discussion relating to the Influenza epidemic and the food situation, suggestions relating to some other matters were made by the members of which a summary is given below.

MR. CHIK SUBBA RAO.—No good drinking water was available in many villages.

MR. GURUVA REDDI.—Crops were failing for want of water in the tanks. It was necessary to remit assessment in every village.

MR. B. GUNDU RAO.—There was a total failure of rains in Budigere in Hoskote Taluk and there was an insistent cry from all the raiyats for the remission of revenue. Representations had already been made on the question of irrigation cess.

MR. RAMASWAMY SASTRY.—The price of cloth was very high and Government should take necessary measures to control the price.

MR. KRISHNA SASTRY.—Education both English and Vernacular as well as Industrial Education and Technical Education was receiving adequate attention at the hands of Government. An Education Board consisting of R. A. Members might be established to devote attention to special branches of education.

DEWAN.—As in the Education Committee of Economic Conference there were Representatives of the Assembly, no special Board was necessary.

MR. H. KRISHNA SASTRY.—In America and Japan such Advisory Boards existed and Mysore might establish a Board also.

DEWAN.—The suggestion would be noted.

Referring to the question of the position of Representatives of Indian States in the proposed Second Chamber of the Imperial Government, Mr. Krishna Sastry suggested that a Committee of members of the Representative Assembly might be appointed to go into the whole question.

MR. MALALI VENKATARAMIAH.—The co-operation of Revenue Officers with Malnad Improvement Officers was necessary and the special officer selected must be an Engineer. If Judicial and Revenue functions were separated, no such co-operation was possible. Extensive credits should not be given by the Mysore and State Banks to local traders, because with the aid of such credits they would speculate.

MR. G. RAMASWAMY IYENGAR.—Cattle were dying in large numbers in many villages for want of fodder.

MR. RAMASWAMY SASTRY.—There was increasing mortality of cattle in many villages.

MR. K. RAMANUJA IYENGAR.—Medicines were not available in Veterinary dispensaries for treating cattle.

Verterinary Doctors might be asked to visit villages affected by cattle diseases.

MR. K. RAMANUJA IYENGAR.—Instead of depending on the manufactures of foreign serum, Government might take measures to manufacture serum for cattle diseases in the State.

MR. RAMASWAMY IYENGAR.—More doctors might be trained to inoculate cattle suffering from diseases.

In the course of the discussion, referring to Influenza, the Dewan observed that medical relief was being given as far as possible; that relief committees had been formed in Bangalore and Mysore cities to adopt measures for combating Influenza and that similar committees may be formed in other places also and that Government were prepared to spare the services of a few officers and allot 3,000 rupees to each district immediately and more also if necessary.

Referring to the food situation, he said that all taluks should make organised efforts to improve conditions and Government would afford them necessary help to get over temporary difficulties. He stated further that enquiries would be made about the complaint as regards the grant of loans from the Mysore Bank to merchants who speculate in grains and withhold stock from the public.

Referring to Miscellaneous matters that were mooted by members in the course of the discussions, the Dewan observed that money was available to improve the drinking water supply in many villages; and stated that lists of villages which needed drinking water would receive the consideration of Government. He said that if rains fail, representations may be made to Government as regards the remission of Revenue; in regard to the control of cloth, he observed that such measures as are adopted by the Government of India would be adopted here. In reply to the representation regarding fodder for cattle, the Dewan observed that fodder crops had been allowed, by a recent Government order, to be raised free of assessment and said that a definite representation may be made to Government in the matter of the manufacture of serum for the prevention of cattle diseases in the State.

After the discussions were over, the Dewan suggested that the following subjects might be taken up by the Special Committees of the Representative Assembly for discussion and report and said that lists of subjects and the names of the Conveners of the Special Committees would be sent later on :—

1. Measures to popularise and extend Village Panchayets.
2. Supply of manure, timber and fuel from District and State Forests to Agriculturists.
3. Town and Village Organisation for development work.
4. Developing Minor Industries.
5. Industrial Education in rural areas.
6. Reconstruction after the War.

In conclusion, the Dewan made a few observations regarding the duties of the people and their representatives in connection with the existing situation in regard to the supply of food-stuffs and the prevalence of Influenza and their responsibility for action and initiative in all important matters relating to the work of administration.